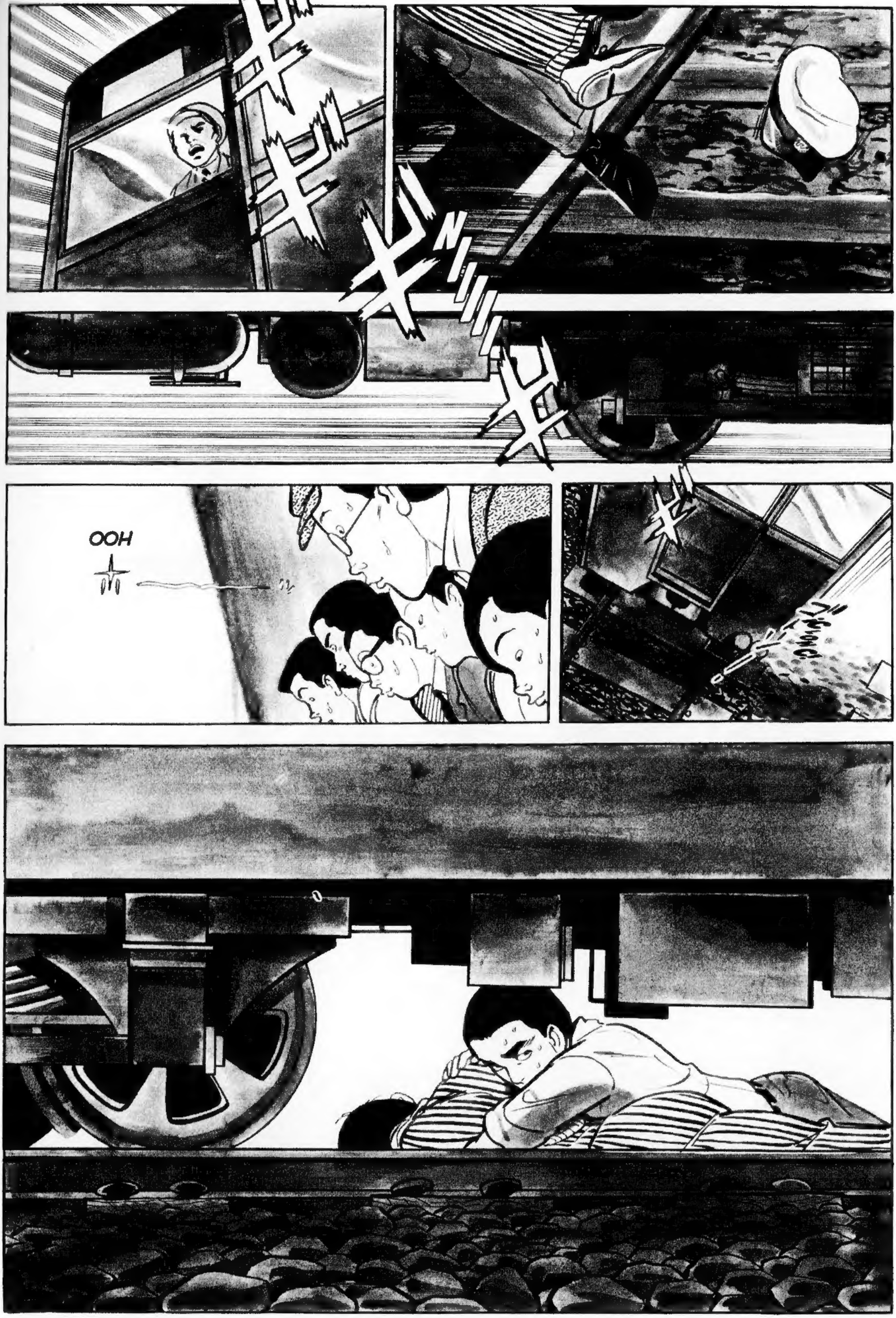
GYAAAAAH
うわああああっ!!

TAP
PLAF
ああ
AAAAAH
ARGHHH!
ZASH


OOH

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
GOD! ARE YOU HURT?!
WOAH! HEHE! HAHAHA!
I'M FINE!
THAT STATION AGENT IS A REAL HERO!
THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
HE'S GONE CRAZY!
HYAAAH! HAHAHA!

SO THERE ARE STILL COURAGEOUS YOUNG MEN THESE DAYS AFTER ALL!
HE'S A HERO! A REAL HERO!
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
WHAT YOU DID WAS AN INCREDIBLE FEAT! I'D LIKE TO PUBLISH YOUR INTERVIEW RIGHT ON THE FRONT PAGE TOMORROW: "HEROIC STATION AGENT RISKS HIS LIFE TO SAVE MAN FROM ONCOMING TRAIN"!
FIRST OFF, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
GOICHI OKADA

WE'LL ASK YOU QUESTIONS LATER, OLD MAN!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIFYING, RIGHT?
AH, OKADA! HE MAY BE YOUNG BUT WE CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON HIM! HE REMINDS ME OF MYSELF WHEN I BECAME STATION MASTER...
YOU'VE REALLY GOT GUTS!
WELL... IT WAS MY DUTY, SO IT SEEMS LIKE A NATURAL THING TO DO...
I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT IT BUT I'M STILL SHAKING... I'M NOT A HERO AT ALL
BUT THINKING BACK ON IT, IT'S CHILLING...
NOTHING WAS GOING THROUGH MY MIND AT THE TIME
BUT THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU A HERO! BY THE WAY, THE MAN YOU RISKED YOUR LIFE TO SAVE WAS SO SHOCKED THAT HE WENT BERSERK WHEN HE SAW THE COPS AS HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS
APPARENTLY PEOPLE CALL HIM "KAMIKAZE". IT APPEARS HE'S A YAKUZA AND HAS QUITE A LONG CRIMINAL RECORD!

HE WAS PROBABLY PUSHED UNTO THE TRACKS BY A KOKKOKAI MEMBER. OR MAYBE HE FELT REMORSE AND JUMPED BY HIMSELF
THE POLICE SUSPECTS HIM TO HAVE KILLED TAKANO, THE LEADER OF THE KOKKOKAI FAR-RIGHT FACTION
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RISKING YOUR LIFE FOR SUCH A CROOK?!
HOW... HOW DO I FEEL? WELL I COULDN'T HAVE LEFT HIM TO DIE, THAT'S FOR SURE...
WHAT AN OUTSTANDING MAN!
YOU'RE RIGHT! AND HUMBLE TOO! HE REMINDS ME OF OUR BASEBALL TEAM'S CAPTAIN! YOU SEE, I ALMOST VIEW HIM AS AN ADOPTIVE SON. AS YOU KNOW, AS THE STATION MASTER...
I'M SORRY BUT I THINK WE'RE DONE... I'VE BARELY DONE ANYTHING, I DON'T DESERVE ALL THIS ATTENTION...

TOC
TOC
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TEP
TOC
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...
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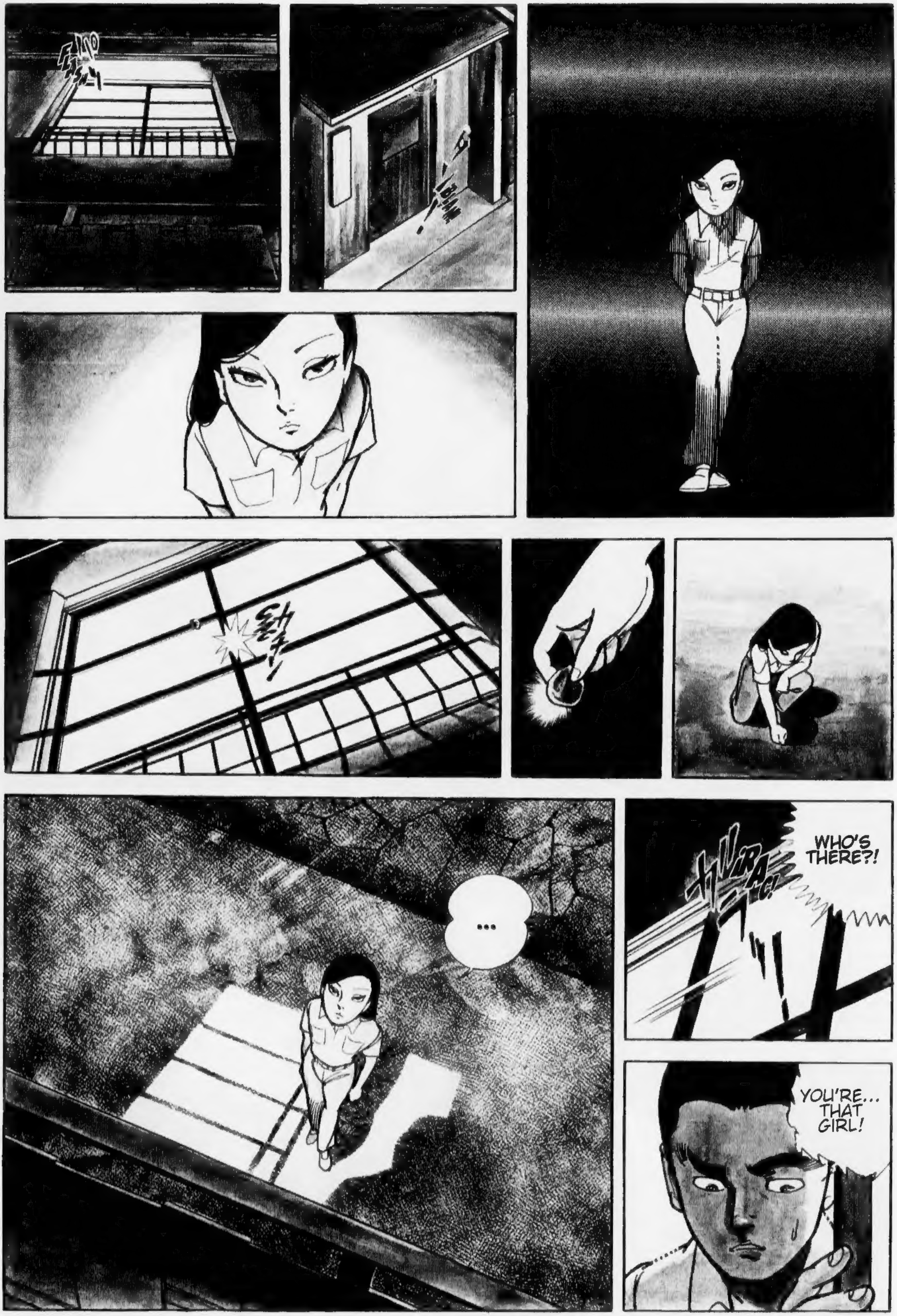
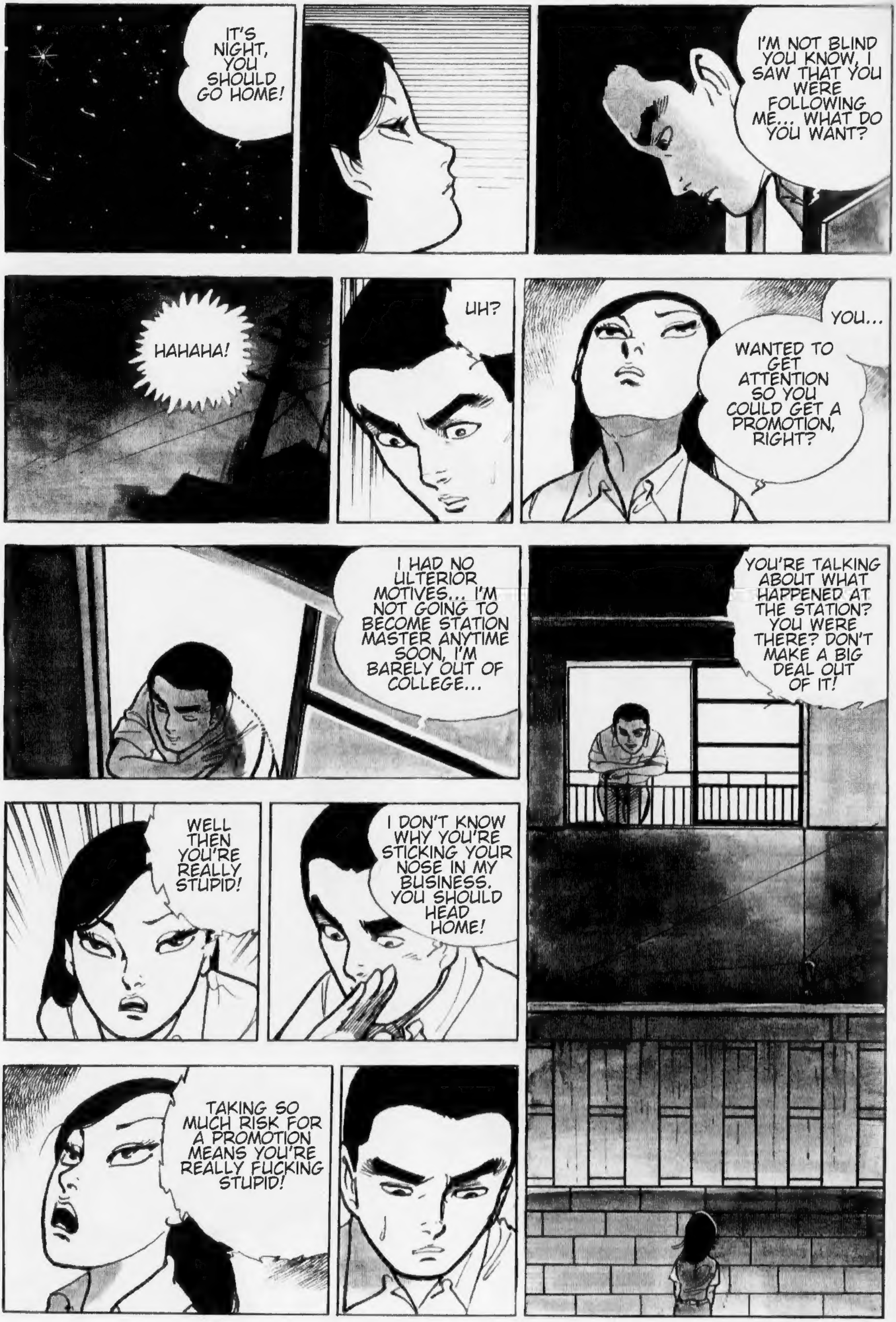
UEHARA


...
WHO'S THERE?!
YOU'RE... THAT GIRL!


IT'S NIGHT, YOU SHOULD GO HOME!
I'M NOT BLIND YOU KNOW, I SAW THAT YOU WERE FOLLOWING ME... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
HAHAHA!
UH?
YOU...
WANTED TO GET ATTENTION SO YOU COULD GET A PROMOTION, RIGHT?
I HAD NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES... I'M NOT GOING TO BECOME STATION MASTER ANYTIME SOON, I'M BARELY OUT OF COLLEGE...
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THE STATION? YOU WERE THERE? DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT!
WELL THEN YOU'RE REALLY STUPID!
I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE STICKING YOUR NOSE IN MY BUSINESS. YOU SHOULD HEAD HOME!
TAKING SO MUCH RISK FOR A PROMOTION MEANS YOU'RE REALLY FUCKING STUPID!

DUMBASS!
WHAT A WEIRD DAY, UH? WITH THAT SILLY GIRL TO END IT OFF, I FEEL AS IF I'M DREAMING...
THAT FEELING OF DREAMING... IT COMES FROM HER FACE, IT ALMOST LOOKS ALIEN. WHAT A CUTE FACE!

品川駅
PLEASE FORM TWO LINES. DO NOT PUSH OR CUT IN LINE! THANK YOU!
OH, THAT'S THE YOUNG EMPLOYEE THE PAPERS WERE TALKING ABOUT!
HE LOOKS SO NORMAL FOR A HERO!
HMM...
SMIRK

HMM... NOT A SINGLE SCRATCH. LET'S CHANGE SUBJECTS
I READ THE PAPERS THIS MORNING! ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT HURT?
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!
COME ON, NOT YOU TOO!
I WAS GETTING CHILLS AS IF I WERE THE ONE STUCK UNDERNEATH THAT TRAIN... I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT SIDE OF YOU! YOU'RE A REAL HERO!
I CAN COUNT ON A MAN LIKE YOU! I HAD A FEW DOUBTS BECAUSE OF YOUR EDUCATION, BUT NOW...
OH! REALLY?
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR PROPOSAL. I'D LIKE TO BE YOUR WIFE!

I'M SORRY... I HOPE YOU WON'T BEGRUDE ME!
WHY WOULD I? I'M THE HAPPIEST MAN ON EARTH! THANK YOU!
!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
IT'S THAT GIRL... SHE'S JUST A KID, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT...
AWW... SHE'S CUTE! SHE LOOKS LIKE A DOLL!

COME! LET'S CELEBRATE OUR ENGAGEMENT AT A FANCY RESTAURANT?
I'VE GOT IT! SHE SEES YOU AS A HERO! YOU'RE LIKE A PRINCE STRAIGHT OUT OF A SHOJO MAGAZINE!
BUT IT'S BOTHERING ME. SHE SPENT THE WHOLE DAY AT THE STATION WATCHING ME WORK, AND SHE EVEN FOLLOWED ME HOME YESTERDAY...
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS CHINESE ONE?
!
MORON!
AGAIN? SHE WON'T STOP INSULTING ME SINCE YESTERDAY! IS THAT HOW SHE WOULD TREAT HER HERO?
TAP
FUCKING IDIOT!!

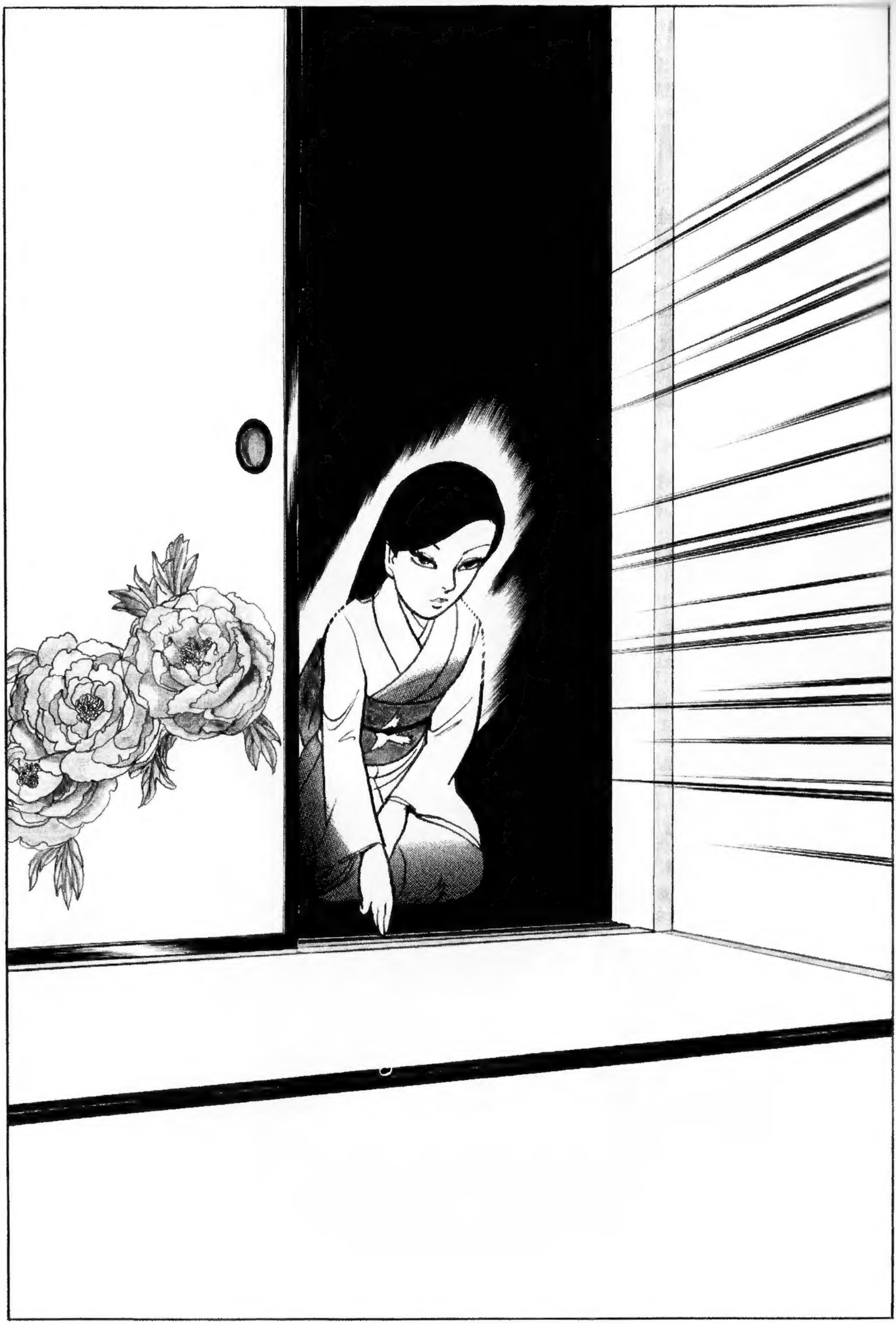
*THE SECRET OF MAYERLING: 1949 FRENCH FILM ABOUT AN AUSTRIAN CROWN PRINCE'S APPARENT SUICIDE. IT STARS JEAN MARAIS, WHO FAMOUSLY WAS JEAN COCTEAU'S MUSE AND LOVER.

SHOKO-CHAN!
DO YOU REMEMBER ME? WE MET AT THE HOSPITAL WHERE YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY. MY NAME IS FUJIE!
I REMEMBER YOUR MUG. AND I HAD HOPED TO NEVER SEE IT AGAIN!
SOSUKE TAKANO BETRAYED MY MOTHER TWICE! ONCE DURING THE WAR WHEN HE LEFT HER TO THE MPs, AND ONCE WHEN HE CHOSE YOU TO REPLACE HER!
P-PLEASE DON'T TALK LIKE THAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER. IN ANY CASE, PLEASE COME WITH ME, COME HOME...
YOUR FATHER ENTRUSTED YOU TO ME, DO YOU REMEMBER?
THAT SHITHOLE WHERE HE GOT OFFED? THE BANRYU? IT MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE! NOTHING BINDS ME TO YOU!

YOU'D COME WERE YOU IN MY DEBT? THEN I'LL TELL YOU, YOU DO OWE ME ONE...
YOU WERE CAUGHT WHEN YOU TRIED TO KILL KEI KAMIKAZE AT HODO MIKURIYA'S RESIDENCE, WERE YOU NOT?
I WAS THE ONE WHO BEGGED MIKURIYA-SENSEI TO LET YOU GO! AND I HAD TO CONVINCE HIM USING A WOMAN'S MOST PRIZED POSSESSION!
*BANRYU
AN AUTUMN EVENING, SIX YEARS LATER
万竜*

*Manryû

THIS IS WHERE YAZAKI AND SHOKO WOULD MEET AGAIN
THE CREAM OF THE LITERARY WORLD WAS HOLDING A FEAST IN AKASAKA, AT THE BANRYU, TO CELEBRATE SHINNOSUKE YAZAKI, RECIPIENT OF ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARDS
SHE'S HOME, I'LL GET HER SO SHE CAN SAY HI TO OUR GUESTS
AH, SENSEI! SHOKO IS OUR OWNER'S ADOPTIVE DAUGHTER! SHE'S NOT FOR THE CLIENTS!
HEY OWNER! GET RID OF THAT OLD GEISHA, I'D PREFER SEEING THE YOUNG SHOKO
SHOKO?
YAZAKI, YOU'LL NEVER PEEP A GIRL THAT'LL GET YOUR BLOOD FLOWING HARDER THAN SHOKO!



A SHOWA ERA WOMAN

BY IKKI KAJIWARA &
KAZUO KAMIMURA

TRANSLATION BY
COQUELICOTSCANS
@COQUELICOTSCANS

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